

The Maine Farmer.

N. T. THUR, Editor.
S. BOARDMAN, Proprietor.
Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

A Day among the Durhams.

The instances are very rare in this roving, restless world of ours—particularly in this part of it—where homesteads have remained in the possession of the same family from father to son, for three generations. Occasionally, in travelling through the country, we find farmers living upon the farms they were born on, and that were occupied by their fathers from boyhood; but not often occupied by grandfather, father and son in succession. In Maine especially, these instances are more rare than in some of the older Middle and Southern States. Our young men have peeled and built up the great West—where larger inducements for wealth have been held out to them—leaving the old farm with all its hallowed associations, and the aged parents bowed with the weight of years, to the care of strangers. Where instances have occurred, of a man's rearing all the allotments offered by far off countries, and still clinging to the paternal acre with all the attachment of youth, it is certainly something not only to be commended, but spoken of for the encouragement of our unsteady farmers, who so often magnify the disadvantages of their present locations and the advantages of some fabled far off land. It is the rule in this State to find new families upon nearly all the desirable farms; but the estate belonging to Warren Percival, Esq., of Vassalboro', is, however, an exception to this rule. It has been in the family for over one hundred years, having been owned by his father and grandfather before him. Having recently spent a day at this place, we think we can interest our readers somewhat by giving them a little account of the farm, stock, and system of husbandry pursued by Mr. Percival.

When the management of the farm devolved upon its present owner, it consisted of seventy-five acres; but it has been enlarged by additional purchases made at different times and now comprises two hundred and twenty-five acres. It is situated upon what is well known as the Cross Hill ridge of land, in Vassalboro', seven miles from this city and four miles east of the river. The principal part of the farm has a south easterly incline, is well wooded, and the soil, a strong red loam, rests upon a gravelly and leghy subsoil, the ledge cropping out in many places near and around the buildings, but not in such quantities as to be a serious obstacle to cultivation. The buildings upon the farm—judging from the low farm house, which is yet in a good state of repair and so convenient as to render absurd the idea of replacing it for a modern house—are such as would give the character of what like Marvel would call an "old style farm," and whilst the dwelling just mentioned, and its immediate outbuildings, of two barns, one thirty by fifty feet, the other forty-five by ninety feet, and other outbuildings as are common upon every well appointed farm. Mr. Percival has also a very large stable for a stable thirty by thirty-five feet, which is to be put up immediately after having. The basement of this stable will be appropriated to a hog house and hen house, the latter facing the east and south and provided with abundance of light, which in winter, by being supplied with glazed windows will secure warm quarters for the pig and part little Lehighs which ornament the poultry department of the establishment.

There is an orchard upon the farm consisting of about two hundred trees, mostly grafted with choice fruit, from which we sold last year about \$400 worth, besides what was used in the family.

The crops upon the farm this year consist of three acres of potatoes, one and a half of roots—turnips and mangold wurtzels—and three of grain—barley, peas and oats. The farm cuts about sixty-five tons of hay, the average yield of the fields being one and a half tons to the acre. A Buckeye mow is used—and with the straw, fodder corn and other rough fodder raised is equal to about eighty-five tons of fodder grown upon the farm. But this amount, large as it is, is not sufficient to winter the stock usually kept upon the farm, and every year more or less fodder is purchased, as about the equivalent of twenty tons of hay is necessary to carry the stock through the winter. This being all consumed upon the farm, a large amount of superior dressing is manufactured in the various yards in which swine are kept—one of which receives the contents of the privy and the sink slops from the house—being supplied with manure and coarse straw manure, is converted into a superior fertilizer. This is hauled out in the fall, piled up, shovelled over in the spring and used upon corn.

While on the subject of manure we may mention that hen manure is regarded by the proprietor as a fertilizer of great power, and every particle of it is carefully saved. It is used chiefly under turnips for first being prepared in the following manner:—The droppings of the poultry are carefully collected, spread in the barn floor and mixed with plaster in the proportion of two parts of the latter to one of the former. This mixture is shoveled over and allowed to remain for three or four days to become thoroughly composed before it is used. A rough applied to turnips, it is, says Mr. Percival, a valuable fertilizer for any crop—an opinion in which many farmers will unite from personal trial. About one thousand bushels of roots, turnips and beets, are raised annually and are fed out to the farm stock during winter. Turnips are almost invariably planted upon sward land, as they seem not to succeed well upon old land.

We may remark here that Mr. Percival has given some attention to the breeding of swine, and now has in his pens thirty-two specimens, consisting of the Chester, Suffolk and Princes Albert breeds. The latter Mr. P. regarded as the Suffolk improved. He has also a pair of pigs of a breed known as the Scotch Suffolk, obtained from Rhode Island, which to the fine points of the Suffolk, add a larger frame, and by securing heavier carcasses. He has recently presented to the Trustees of the State Industrial School, a pair of full blood Suffolk pigs, for the farm of the Institution at Orono.

Mr. Percival has a flock of about seventy Cotswold sheep, one half of which are pure blood, the remainder being crosses. The meat stock upon the farm consists of forty-six head of thoroughbred Short Horns, and this is the crowning point of his attention. The herd is classed as follows:—six bulls, sixteen cows, and twenty-five calves. Mr. Percival first turned his attention to the breeding of pure blood stock in 1840, and at that time purchased six cows and heifers of Mr. Wm. B. Grant of Farmington. He also made some purchases of Mr. Walworth of Livermore, and in 1861 bought a thoroughbred bull bred by Geo. M. Butts of Massachusetts, following up by the purchase of other animals from the herd of Paul Lathrop of South

Hadley, Mass., and other eminent breeders. In this way and by judicious breeding, he has obtained a herd which was called by a gentleman from Massachusetts, a good judge of stock, and himself a breeder of some note, who recently visited Mr. Percival's farm, the best herd—especially of cows—he had ever seen. Among the animals forming Mr. P.'s herd we may mention the roan bull "Gen. Smith" three years old, which was bred by Milo J. Smith & Son of Northampton, Mass. He is by "Marmion," out of "Colona," by "Earl of Warwick." Mr. Samuel Thorne's celebrated bull, while "Gen. Smith" is "Earl of Warwick" were both sired by the famous Duke of Gloster. It will thus be seen that "Gen. Smith" has as good blood as any animal in the country, and had the reputation which some of the animals belonging to our celebrated breeders have, could not be bought for any sum. His services, however, are not as valuable, and he will be sure to obtain some superior stock.

It is a rule with Mr. Percival not to let his heifers calve in until three years of age. The calves are taken from the cows when about three days old, and are reared on milk. Small troughs are provided in their pens into which the milk is turned, and he never has any difficulty in making them drink. No particular pains are taken to learn them, and they very readily acquire the habit. The calves are given one half the milk until about two months old, when it is gradually increased, until at from three to five months old the milk is fed to them. Meanwhile they are fed a few oats and shorts—this being placed in a small trough beside the one they drink from. This is given to keep them growing, and accustom them to eating, so that when the milk is wholly taken from them they will be in readiness to take care of themselves. From the time they are taken from the cows the calves run in a good pasture, thereby having access to fresh green all the time. The aim is not to force or pump the calves for sale, but to keep them in a tough, healthy, growing state, and able to "churn for themselves" and give without the aid of milk. By this treatment his calves at one year old will weigh from five and one-half to six feet. In one pasture adjoining the barn we saw a flock of fifteen calves of "royal blood," all of them square, sleek, handsome little creatures, showing unmistakably the fine points and high bred qualities of their ancestors.

We took special pleasure in viewing Mr. Percival's cows, sixteen in number, and marking the delight with which their owner repeated their several names, ages and pedigrees, and spoke of the particular excellences of each animal. They are a fine herd, showing in a marked degree all the distinguishing qualities of the pure bred Durhams, quiet and gentle easy milkers, staid, placed well apart, with soft, yellow skin. Every animal in Mr. Percival's herd, is recorded in the "American Short Horn Herd Book"—the pedigree of his this year calves will appear in the eighth volume, to be published next month—and we may mention, as showing the progress that has been made in the breeding of Short Horns, and the leading position this breed is taking in the United States, that the second volume of Mr. Allen's Herd-book, recording the breeding of nine years, was issued in 1855. Since that time five volumes have been published, the eighth having been issued early in 1866, therefore, the eighth, now nearly ready, will contain the pedigrees of animals bred in one year. An increase as surprising as this is significant.

In addition to the above animals Mr. Percival has half-bred Jersey and a full blood Alderney—both heifers. Among the sales of animals recently made, in addition to those previously announced by us, we may mention that Mr. Percival has just sold to Mr. Alvin B. Jordan of East Ramoth, the bull "Gen. Warren," two years old, out of "Prize" by "John Bull 2d," viz., to the Maine Industrial College three calves, viz.: "Cora," three years old with calf by her side, "Nellie," and "Beauty 2d," each two years old. These were all sired by "John Bull 2d" out of superior dairy cows. To show whether or not the breeding of pure blood stock is a paying business, we will give a few figures from Mr. Percival's books, which must speak for themselves. Since he commenced breeding in 1860 he has paid out about \$4,000 for improved stock, and within the same period has sold stock to the amount of \$5,000, while his herd of Durhams, to-day, reckoned at low prices for full blood stock would sell for \$6,000. We make no comments upon these figures.

We have left but little room to speak of the system of farm management practiced by Mr. Percival, and must now content ourselves by merely glancing at two points. The first is the system of raising stock. In his case the plan is to keep the stock in a temperate cool with or above the temperature without, but the free use of cold water chills the system without, hence the injury. Men will stand the heat much better if they partake of warm drink than if they imbibe freely of cold water.

Books for the Farm.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1866.

We are indebted to Sanford Howard, the able Secretary of the Board, for copies of his last annual report, besides the usual matters of local interest contains several interesting and useful articles, original and selected.

DRAINING FOR PROFIT; and Draining for Health. By Geo. E. Waring, Jr. Illustrated. New York, Orange, Judd & Co. 12mo. pp. 244. Price \$1.50.

A valuable manual, covering the whole ground thoroughly, and containing chapters of great importance on the reclaiming of salt marshes, malarial diseases, and home drainage and town sewerage in their relation to the public health. Mr. Waring is the well known engineer of the drainage of the New York Central Park, and is well prepared to advise upon the matter comprised in this volume. For sale in this city by E. Fenn & Son.

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A practical little treatise on squash culture, giving full details on every point, including keeping and marketing the crop. For sale by E. Fenn & Son, Augusta.

Death of an Agricultural Worker.

It is with real sorrow that we record the death of Mr. Richard C. Kendall, of Thistlewood, near Philadelphia, which took place at Aoto, N. J., on the 24th inst. Mr. Kendall was born in China, of American parents, and has been a very extensive traveler, having visited and personally examined nearly all the civilized portions of the globe. He was for many years the agricultural editor of the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post—a contributor to all the leading agricultural papers of the country, and is known to our readers by his calm and readable articles under the signature of "Cosmo," published by us from time to time. He was also a writer of authority on general literature; his versatility was remarkable, his style plain and quaint, and his reading full and scholarly.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE. Among the names favorably mentioned for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture, made vacant by the death of Mr. Newton, are Hon. S. L. Goodale of this State, Hon. F. Holbrook, ex-Governor of Vermont, Hon. Horace Capron of Illinois, and Orange Judd of New York. They are all well qualified for the position.

Visit to an Apiary.

On Wednesday of last week we made a brief visit to the apiary of Mr. C. E. Hayward, formerly city clerk of Augusta, situated near his residence on the east side of the city. Mr. Hayward is an all our citizens know, is a feeble body, but having kept bees for over twenty years, he still finds delight in watching their movements, and learns from them something new each day. Their care and study affords solace for many an hour, which bodily pain would otherwise render almost unendurable. Mr. Hayward keeps his bees in a house or apiary. This bee house which is quite ornamental outside, is eight by twelve feet, and about eight feet high. It is situated in one corner of the garden, under the shade of two maples, and Mr. H. informs us that houses built for this purpose, should always have the shade of some large tree. If situated where the sun has full force upon them they are too hot for the bees and honey during the warm months. Upon the east and south end there are three openings, about nine inches wide and running the entire length and width of the building. The first is level with the floor, the second is high enough above it to place a hive and boxes upon the floor, and the third the same distance above the second. Shelves are arranged upon the inside of the house, so that with hives setting upon them the bottom of the hive is level with the bottom of the opening. These openings are provided with lids, which being hung at the bottom drop down, furnishing a sort of shelf for the bees. They are closed whenever it is necessary.

Mr. Hayward is now keeping eighteen swarms. From one hive this season obtained four strong swarms, it being fourteen days between the issuing of the first and last swarms. In his long experience with bees he has tried nearly all the patent hives that have been put before the public, and has now in use the Torrey, Quincy, French, and also the old fashioned hive. The latter he regards as the best hive that can be used. They are cheaply made, and by boring holes through the top, boxes can be placed upon them as well as they can be attached to patent hives, and the quality of honey made equally as choice. The more is more likely to work among bees when placed in a house, but with proper care in the spring, they can be cleaned, and kept free from them, and as the houses can be kept locked, all risk of loss of hives and honey is avoided. Mr. H. informs us that a few days since he noticed a considerable number of bees hanging upon the outside of the house, and to try a little experiment he quietly cut a hole through from the inside, placed a box against it, when immediately the bees went in and commenced to work. The box is now nearly full of honey.

The amount of surplus honey that will be stored by his bees this season, Mr. Hayward estimates at 250 pounds, which at 25 cents per pound, a reasonable price, would amount to \$62.50. He judges some of his swarms will store forty pounds of surplus honey; while one of his hives this spring sent out a strong swarm, and both the old and new swarms now secured about twenty-five pounds of surplus honey each. The present season is regarded as a very good one. This year it commenced about the 25th of June and usually lasts about one month. Usually the season opens about the 8th or 10th of June. The bees are wintered in the house, and Mr. Hayward seldom or never loses a swarm from the cold.

We were gratified with our visit, and although it was very brief, came away with increased wonder and admiration in behalf of these busy little creatures.

The art of bee keeping is a most interesting one.

Warm Drink in Hayting Time.

Some years ago, a medical gentleman of high repute, published an article in the newspapers of the day, urging upon all farmers and others obliged to work much in the open air, to avoid the excessive use of cold water, and use instead warm drink. We all of us know that many deaths and much sickness occur every year by a too free use of cold water during the excessive hot weather of summer; and we are convinced, not only from Nature's reasonings, but from experience, that warm drink is less liable to prove injurious, and will quench thirst more satisfactorily than ice cold water. We therefore urge all housewives to keep the tea pot on the stove when cooking, and send to the men in the field a quantity of warm tea, with milk and a little sugar added. This will be more nourishing than water, will satisfy thirst more completely, and men will not need to drink of it so often as of water, and will consequently receive no injury from taking it. In hot weather the interior system needs to be kept at a temperature equal with or above the temperature without, but the free use of cold water chills the system without, hence the injury. Men will stand the heat much better if they partake of warm drink than if they imbibe freely of cold water.

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Communications.

Entomological Correspondence.

"As I am here on a visit from Kennebec county, Me., and have seen some very interesting insects, I thought I would send you a specimen. They call them potato bugs here, and it is the second season they have been known. I send a specimen bug and larva. They were taken in the usual manner of the winter. I saw a number of them this spring when the ground was being worked. If you receive them safe and see fit to use them in any remarks, please give them through the MAINE FARMER as I receive no paper weekly. Yours, &c., CALVIN GRAY."

Madison, Wis., July 3, 1867.

Nora. The insects came to hand "alive and kicking," and looking very lively, considering their long journey and the six days they were on the passage without anything to eat. There were five "potato bugs," three larvae and two of the perfect form or beetles. They were exceedingly lively, from their long fast, and the first thing I did was to give them a good feeding of fresh potato leaves, which they ate and drank with great relish. They were not yet hatched from their eggs, but it is to be hoped they may not for many years, as such an insect preying upon our potato crop would be a national pest. Their scientific name is *Doryctes*, 10 cent. The scientific name of the beetle is *Leptodermes*. They are entirely different from "our potato bug," the *Lema 3-lineata*, or three-lined leaf beetle, which is common in our gardens and fields, and is very common in the potato fields. The beetle has ten lines or stripes on its wing covers, while ours has but three, and the western species is much larger, thicker and different shaped. A full description of "our potato bug" was given in the Farmer last year.

ARTIFICIAL CATERPILLARS. These have now all finished eating and have changed from the larva to the pupa state, and may be found in crevices of fences, in leaves, on buildings, &c., enclosed in a white, tough silken cocoon, from which they will soon emerge, pupae and the female will deposit their eggs in the form of the well known belts on the twigs of trees. They have not been so numerous as usual heretofore, and we cannot say that they are a great pest. The caterpillars are very common in the potato fields, and it is to be hoped they may not for many years, as such an insect preying upon our potato crop would be a national pest. Their scientific name is *Doryctes*, 10 cent. The scientific name of the beetle is *Leptodermes*. They are entirely different from "our potato bug," the *Lema 3-lineata*, or three-lined leaf beetle, which is common in our gardens and fields, and is very common in the potato fields. The beetle has ten lines or stripes on its wing covers, while ours has but three, and the western species is much larger, thicker and different shaped. A full description of "our potato bug" was given in the Farmer last year.

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Treatment of Mites—Gargles.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—I was pleased to see an article in a recent number of your paper entitled "The Cows always do Well." We see frequent inquiries for the treatment of mites, and I thought I would send you a few lines on the subject. I have found that a solution of sulphur in kerosene is a very good remedy for mites, and I have used it with great success. I have found that a solution of sulphur in kerosene is a very good remedy for mites, and I have used it with great success.

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of the year let be carefully protected against the causes of inflammation before mentioned, and continue this care until the weather becomes in a measure genial, and there is little doubt that she will "always do well." And there will be little need of inquiries for and prescriptions of remedies for garget.

Poultry Queries.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—In your issue of March 28th, but I find an interesting article from "W. H." headed "Advice to the purchasers of poultry." At this season of the year, it is rather late to put in practice the information I desire; as at the time the article was published I was in this State, and it is only recently that I returned to this town. Your correspondent gives his advice concerning the two breeds of fowls, viz., Brahma and White faced Black Spanish. Where such fowls are desired, the buyer can rely on having a pure breed. Before coming here from Boston, I purchased a pair of the White faced Black Spanish fowls, of a dealer on Court street. I paid five dollars for them, and they were very fine. They were of pure blood. Recently, I have concluded that they are not, for a few of the tips of their tail feathers are turning white, but as my intention was to have a dozen of the pullets, let them be either pure or mixed, white or black, and next season I will try again. In connection with this let me inquire the best kind of feed for the proper method of feeding fowls? Will you or "W. H." or some one who is posted please send me, through the columns of the FARMER, the required information and the undersigned will receive it with many thanks. Dredgen, July 15, 1867.

Note. We hope our poultry correspondent "W. H." Portland, will respond to this and previous queries of readers, in relation to poultry.—Eps.

Agricultural Miscellany.

The Great New England Fair.

The extent of the Exhibition which is to be made at Providence in September next, under the auspices of the New England Agricultural Society, may be as a measure of the importance of the fair, and the weight of the long and liberal list of prizes which were currently and fully given in the columns of last week's Farmer. The fair is to be held at Providence, and the weight of the long and liberal list of prizes which were currently and fully given in the columns of last week's Farmer. The fair is to be held at Providence, and the weight of the long and liberal list of prizes which were currently and fully given in the columns of last week's Farmer.

The farmers of New England have already run their eyes and thoughts over the full list of premiums offered for stock, produce and articles of domestic industry, and are now in the midst of preparing to exhibit. The fair is to be held at Providence, and the weight of the long and liberal list of prizes which were currently and fully given in the columns of last week's Farmer. The fair is to be held at Providence, and the weight of the long and liberal list of prizes which were currently and fully given in the columns of last week's Farmer.

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The Propagation of Fish.

This is a subject which merits and is receiving increased attention. Many of the present generation can remember the time when New England streams which are now almost destitute of fish, or at least of those which annually ascend from the ocean to spawn, as the salmon, herring and shad, were swarming with them. Indeed, we have been told by a person who used to employ apprentices in a New England village on the bank of one of its main rivers, fifty years since, that was stipulated in indenture that the apprentice should not be compelled to eat salmon more than three times a week, during the season. But that river, too, does not afford salmon enough to make it pay for keeping the old fishing grounds in order.

The N. Y. Post in a recent number has some interesting remarks from which we copy as follows: Four of the New England States—Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut—are discussing the ways and means of protecting shad and propagating salmon in the Connecticut river. The subject is now before the Connecticut Legislature, and the shape of a report from the commission appointed last year to study and suggest plans for the preservation of shad, and how to restore the river with salmon, is now before the Legislature. The report, which embraces an interesting history of the river fisheries, past and present, recommends the passage of stringent laws to prevent the capture and slaughter of shad by means of gill nets and stake nets at the mouth of the river. If Connecticut will enact and enforce such laws, that State will perform its part in the restoration of the river. In Connecticut, the shad is now being captured and sold in the river, and the shad is now being captured and sold in the river, and the shad is now being captured and sold in the river.

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